WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image reading apparatus comprising:

an image reading means for reading image data on a predetermined pixel region basis;

a storage means for storing the image data; and

a read pixel changing means for changing the predetermined pixel region according to the storage capacity of said storage means.

2. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said read pixel changing means expands the predetermined pixel region as storage capacity required for storing read image data in said storage means is reduced.

3. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the storage capacity required for storing read image data in said storage means corresponds to the kind of original.

4. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the storage capacity required for storing read image data in said storage means corresponds to the reading mode.

5. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the storage capacity required for storing

read image data in said storage means corresponds to the reading resolution.

6. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the original includes at least a cut paper sheet, a postcard, and a photograph.

7. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the reading mode includes a monochrome mode and a full color mode.

8. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a moving means for effecting a relative movement of said image reading means and the original, wherein said read pixel changing means changes the predetermined pixel region in accordance with the movement amount of said moving means.

9. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said image reading means performs overlap reading on a part of adjacent predetermined pixel regions.

10. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the overlap reading range is changed in accordance with the predetermined pixel region changed by said read pixel changing means.

11. An image reading apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising an averaging means for averaging image data obtained through overlap reading.

12. An image reading apparatus comprising:

a reading head for reading an original image by using a line sensor;

a moving means for effecting a relative movement of the reading head and the original image;

a control means for controlling said moving means so as to repeat a relative movement in a first direction perpendicular to the direction in which the line sensor is arranged and a relative movement in a second direction in which the line sensor is arranged;

a storage means for storing image data read by the reading head; and

a setting means for setting the reading width of the reading head in one relative movement in the first direction on the basis of the storage capacity of said storage means.

13. An image reading apparatus comprising:

a reading head for reading an original image by using a line sensor;

a moving means for effecting a relative movement of the reading head and the original image;

a control means for controlling said moving means

so as to repeat a relative movement in a first direction perpendicular to the direction in which the line sensor is arranged and a relative movement in a second direction in which the line sensor is arranged; and

a setting means for setting the reading width of the reading head in one relative movement in the first direction on the basis of the resolution with which the original image is read.

14. An image reading apparatus comprising:

a reading head for reading an original image by using a line sensor;

a moving means for effecting a relative movement of the reading head and the original image;

a control means for controlling said moving means so as to repeat a relative movement in a first direction perpendicular to the direction in which the line sensor is arranged and a relative movement in a second direction in which the line sensor is arranged; and

a setting means for setting the reading width of the reading head in one relative movement in the first direction on the basis of the size of the original.

15. A storage medium for storing a program for controlling an image reading apparatus so as to read

image data on a predetermined pixel region basis, by an image reading means store the read image data in a storage means, and change the predetermined pixel region in accordance with the storage capacity of said storage means.

16. A storage medium for storing a program for controlling an image reading apparatus comprising a reading head for reading an original image by using a line sensor; a moving means for effecting a relative movement of the reading head and the original image; a control means for controlling the moving means so as to repeat a relative movement in a first direction perpendicular to the direction in which the line sensor is arranged and a relative movement in a second direction in which the line sensor is arranged; and a storage means for storing image data read by the reading head,

wherein said program includes a setting module for setting the reading width of the reading head in one relative movement in the first direction on the basis of the storage capacity of said storage means.

17. A storage medium for storing a program for controlling an image reading apparatus comprising a reading head for reading an original image by using a line sensor; a moving means for effecting a relative

movement of the reading head and the original image; and a control means for controlling said moving means so as to repeat a relative movement in a first direction perpendicular to the direction in which the line sensor is arranged and a relative movement in a second direction in which the line sensor is arranged,

wherein said program includes a setting module for setting the reading width of the reading head in one relative movement in the first direction on the basis of the resolution with which the original image is read.

18. A storage medium for storing a program for controlling an image reading apparatus comprising a reading head for reading an original image by using a line sensor; a moving means for effecting a relative movement of the reading head and the original image; and a control means for controlling said moving means so as to repeat a relative movement in a first direction perpendicular to the direction in which the line sensor is arranged and a relative movement in a second direction in which the line sensor is arranged,

wherein said program includes a setting module for setting the reading width of the reading head in one relative movement in the first direction on the basis of the size of the original.